

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 CIEP-03 IO-14 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /139 W

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R 261510Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5922

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1152

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: SDLP AND CURRENT NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUES

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED ON BEHALF CONGEN BELFAST. QUOTE:

1. PADDY DEVLIN A LEADER IN ULSTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
LABOR PARTY (SDLP) MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS TO CONGEN
DAY AFTER SDLP DELEGATION RETURNED FROM LONDON AND DUBLIN:

(A) BRITISH WITHDRAWAL NOW APPEARS BE ONLY MATTER OF
TIME. SECSTATE REES ADMITTED TO SDLP DELEGATION THAT
INCREASED HARRASSMENT IN NORTHERN IRISH CATHOLIC AREAS
BY ARMY WAS DELIBERATE TACTIC DESIGNED MAKE POPULACE
WELCOME IF NOT DEMAND REPLACEMENT TROOPS BY ROYAL ULSTER
CONSTABULARY. DEVLIN SEES THIS AS STEP TOWARD BRITISH
"DISENGAGEMENT".

(B) SOME LOYALIST LEADERS NOTABLY WILLIAM CRAIG WOULD
WELCOME WITHDRAWAL AND ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE THEREAFTER.
CRAIG ONE OF FEW UNIONISTS WHO RETAIN PRESTIGE AFTER
ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL STRIKE. "WEST WAITED TOO LONG
TO SUPPORT IT AND PAISLEY INVENTED A DEAD UNCLE IN
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CANADA WHOSE FUNERAL HE HAD TO ATTEND."

(C) SDLP FOUND LITTLE TO BE HOPEFUL ABOUT IN EITHER LONDON OR DUBLIN. ENGLISH HAD BEEN ONLY POLITE, DUBLIN AUTHORITIES COMPLETELY NONCOMMITTAL.

(D) "IRISH DIMENSION" TO SDLP MEANS SIMPLY EVENTUAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION AND MARKETING IN LIGHT IMPERATIVES ARISING FROM DEVELOPMENTS IN EEC. SDLP HAD IN PAST AGREED PUT QUESTION POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH REPUBLIC IN ABEYANCE FOR TEN YEARS. THIS NOT RPT NOT A REAL ISSUE AND USED ONLY BY LOYALISTS TO ENSURE FAILURE OF ANY POWER-SHARING PROPOSAL.

2. DEVLIN SUBDUED AND DEPRESSED DURING CONVERSATION. ACCORDING DEVLIN GATHERING 19 SDLP ASSEMBLY-MEN OVER WEEK END AUGUST 24 AND 25 AT UNDISCLOSED SPOT IN DONEGAL IS FOR PURPOSE ISSUING POLICY STATEMENT. IT EQUALLY PROBABLE SDLP LEADERS NEED REBUILD ENTIRE STRATEGY IN FACE CURRENT CONSENSUS NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL GROUPS THAT BRITISH, AT LEAST AS REPRESENTED BY LABOUR PARTY, WANT VERY MUCH END INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. SPICER. END QUOTE.
MOORE

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